IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: ARAI, et al.

Filed:

on even date herewith

For:

METHOD OF DETECTING PARTICLES AND A PROCESSING

APPARATUS USING THE SAME

CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

Mail Stop Patent Application **Commissioner for Patents** P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 March 2, 2004

Sir:

Under the provisions of 35 USC §119 AND 37 CFR § 1.55, Applicants hereby claim the right of priority based on **Japanese** Patent Application No. **2003-199592** filed **July 22, 2003**.

Respectfully submitted,

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